

## Healed Through His Wounds

Jesus refers to the story that Michelangelo painted into a corner of the Sistine Chapel. It is about the time the Chosen People were attacked by serpents and many were dying. God instructed Moses to place two serpents on a staff and lift it up over the people. All they had to do was look at the serpents to be miraculously healed of their bite wounds.

We have all been bitten by sin. This can be our own self-destructive choices and attitudes, or we can be victims of other's sins. Yet sin and suffering doesn't need to have the last word. We can overcome if we choose to look at Christ crucified and learn his lesson of love. Jesus teaches us to not be defined by our ugly choices or the wounds we suffer. Our wounds and weaknesses can become the place of our healing. Jesus wants to heal us. That is why he let himself be lifted up!

To embrace this healing is simple yet challenging. First it requires simple faith to believe you are loved by the Father, no matter what. Second we need a constant, often-denied effort on our part to sincerely repent and work with

God's grace to transform self-limiting attitudes and habits into virtues.

Even if you feel dead in your transgressions now, Jesus has already secured your path to life. Grace awaits you. The first step is to accept the love from he who is lifted up with arms outstretched to receive you.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### *For Reflection*

*Do I have any unspoken beliefs that, in some way, I am unlovable?*

*Do I need to repent from whatever attitudes or actions distance me from that love?*



Piece: *The Brazen Serpent*, 1508-1512  
Artist: Michelangelo  
Location: Sistine Chapel

*[Jesus said,] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up."*

*John 3:14*

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

**Intention**

**Requested by**

Saturday, Mar. 10	5 p.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children for Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children
Sunday, Mar. 11	8 a.m.	Al and Katie Carlson - Blessings and Healing	Friends at St. John
	9:30 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children for Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children
	11 a.m.	Jose Rodrigues Soares †	Victoria deGregorio
	12:30 p.m.	Sifi Helena †	Victoria Tannady
	6 p.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Monday, Mar. 12	8 a.m.	Joseph Conwill - Blessings and Healing	Friends at St. John
Tuesday, Mar. 13	8 a.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Wednesday, Mar. 14	8 a.m.	Jaime Smith †	Smith Family
Thursday, Mar. 15	8 a.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Friday, Mar. 16	8 a.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Saturday, Mar. 17	8 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children for Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children

**Stewardship**

Envelopes & EFT, March 4, 2017	\$ 6,836
Loose Donations	\$ 1,816
Second Collection: Parish Development and School Tuition Assistance Program	\$1,362
Charismatic Service	\$190

Second Collection for this week is for Easter Flowers.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**Daylight Savings Time**

Time change to one hour ahead starting today.

**Adoration Chapel's Lenten Retreat**

Saturday, March 10, 2018  
A Topic About Prayer, 7pm-9pm

Saturday, March 17, 2018, 7pm-9pm  
Learning About Fasting

Public Rosary (For the Traditional Marriage of One Man and One Woman), Outside the Chapel, 12pm

Saturday, March 24, 2018, 7pm-9pm  
Understanding Almsgiving

**Let Us Pray for the Sick**

Rodolfo Abesamis, Virginia Alday, Gera Assefa  
Evelyn Baker, Niani Barber, Pearl & Patrick Batiste  
Paul Batist, Irene Blair, Robert Britto, Richard Calapini, Evelyn Canepa, Jeff Chavez, Brenna Clark, Jennette Cleadenger  
Betty Cooper, Linda Crittendon  
Cora Dongon  
Joann Douglas, Pablo de la Vega  
Mary Dong, Tami Duncan, Juanita Estrellas, Filomena Giese, Mike Giovannini, Joseph Golinveau  
Domingos deGregorio, Andy Gutierrez, James Gutierrez, Ruben Gutierrez, Maydelle Halligan, Joanne, Marvin & Maurice Haynes, Sherry Highlander, Tamaya Hunt, Ann Jones, Tom Kennedy, Robin Laws, Maria Impang Lozada, Bernice Luckett, Marian & Michael Luoma, Nancy McVey  
Francis Mondragon, Ester Oppus, Judith Padilla, Theresa Parella, Angelina Patacsil, Pam Paun, Victoria Payless, Fely Sabares Jovita Santos, Linda Schneider, Salvador Tejero, Rose Texara, Pat Tilley, Joseph Vidal, Sarah Vidal, Evodio Walle, Jan Williamson



**Senior Center Event**

Mar. 13: Mark de Leon on Senior Center Open House, 11:30am/Lunch at 12:30pm. Tues. 237-3808

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. “We are truly his handiwork, “ says St. Paul in the second Reading, “created in Christ Jesus to lead a life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance.”

### This Week’s Service Schedule

**Sunday Readings:** 2Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23, Eph 2:4-10, Jn 3:14-21.

**Monday Readings:** Is 65:17-21, Jn 4:43-54. Or Micah 7:7-9, Jn 9:1-41.

**Tuesday Readings:** Ez 47:1-9, 12, Jn 5:1-16. Or Micah 7:7-9, Jn 9:1-41.

**Wednesday Readings:** Is 49:8-15, Jn 5:17-30. Or Micah 7:7-9, Jn 9:1-41.

**Thursday Readings:** Ex 32:7-14, Jn 5:31-47, Or Micah 7:7-9, Jn 9:1-41.

**Friday Readings:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22, Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30. Or Micah 7:7-9, Jn 9:1-41.

**Saturday Readings:** Jer 11:18-20, Jn 7:40-53. Or Micah 7:7-9, Jn 9:1-41. Or 1Peter 4:7b-11, Lk 5:1-11.

**Liturgy of the Hours, Mon.- Fri.** at 7:40am.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena, Wed.,** 8:30am at the Church and 6pm at the Chapel.

**Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Mon.- Sat.,** 8:30am at Church; Daily, 3pm, 9pm, and 10pm (Spanish) and Wed., 7:30pm (Spanish), Chapel.

**Holy Infant of Prague Novena, Thu.** at 8:30am at Church.

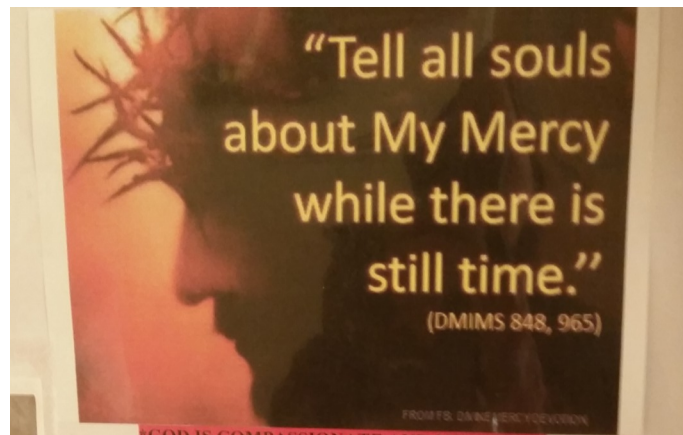
**Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,** Fri., 6pm at the Chapel.

**Confession, Sat.,** at 4pm or at an appointed time.

**Stations of the Cross, Fri.,** 8:30am and 7:30pm (with Benediction) at Church

**Public Rosary (For Traditional Marriage of One Man and One Woman), Sat.,** 12:00pm, Outside the Chapel.

**Retreat on Fasting, 7-9pm** at the Chapel



### The Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for the Month of March

Evangelization: **Formation in Spiritual Discernment.**

That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

### Memorial for Pat Jeffre

The funeral service for Pat Jeffre is Saturday, March 17, 11:00am only.

There is nothing scheduled for Friday, March 16. The service is at Holy Angels/St. Joseph Cemetery, [2540 Church Lane, San Pablo](#): A reception will follow.

### Protecting God’s Children

All volunteers and church employees must take the training at [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org).

Volunteers and church employees, who mentor minors, or administer the Eucharist at homes or visit vulnerable adults need to be livescanned/fingerprinted.

Send copy(s) to the Rectory of your training certificate and livescan/fingerprint.

For questions, please call the Rectory or the Safe Environment, Diocese c/o Diana Bitz 267-8315.

**Liturgy And Illness**

Please be aware that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply to those who are ill, especially those who suffer from contagious disease. It is a sign of consideration for others that with flu-like symptoms remain at home. We encourage those who are ill to unite themselves to our Crucified Lord and offer their sufferings for their sanctification and the sanctification of the whole world. -Diocese

**The "Footsteps of St. Paul" Pilgrimage**

This pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey will visit the House of the Blessed Mother in Ephesus. Mass will be celebrated daily during the 14-Day Pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage includes seven days of cruising the Greek Islands. The cost is \$4,599 for a round-trip airfare from San Francisco, hotel accommodations, meals, cruise and island short excursions. Flyers are available at the vestibule and at the St. John the Baptist Office. Due to high demand, please make your reservation early for this pilgrimage from September 20 to October 3, 2018. The pilgrimage will be accompanied by Fr. Thuong H. Nguyen as the Spiritual Director. For reservation and for more information, contact Group Leader, Linfa Belisario, @ (510) 599-4210.

**Oakland Symphony Chorus  
Italian Tour 2018**

Sing with the Oakland Symphony Chorus in some of the finest cities and concert venues in historic Italy. You will be traveling to Rome, Venice, Florence, and Pisa from June 21 to July 1, 2018. For more information, log on: [www.oaklandsymphony.org/about-us/chorus/](http://www.oaklandsymphony.org/about-us/chorus/) International Tours Next Stop: June 21-July 1, 2018

**Sign Up for Electronic Donations  
– They're Simple, Safe and Convenient –**

I (We) hereby authorize **The Church of St. John the Baptist, El Cerrito** to initiate debit entries to my (our) account indicated below at the depository financial institution known as **Mechanics Bank** to collect my church donations and, if necessary, adjustments for any entries in error to my account indicated below to credit and/or debit the same to such account.

I (We) acknowledge that the origination of EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

**PLEASE ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK FROM THE ACCOUNT YOU WISH TO DRAW FROM**

**REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS:**

WEEKLY (drawn every Monday) AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

MONTHLY ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> OR MONTHLY ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:**

PARISH & SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT (First Sunday) AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH CHARITY (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month – 4 times/year) AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL (2nd or 17th of month – please specify) AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DATE PAYMENTS TO BEGIN: \_\_\_\_\_

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until **The Church of St. John the Baptist, El Cerrito**, has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford **The Church of St. John the Baptist** and **Mechanics Bank** a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone

Please complete and send this form to:

St. John the Baptist Church  
11150 San Pablo Avenue  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

**SVDP Easter Foods Distribution**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will distribute hams and sides for a joyous Easter meal to needy families at our pantry on Saturday, March 17th. You can help by providing donations of 5-pound canned hams or funds to purchase hams and sides. See any SVDP member, place a donation in the collection basket made out to "St. John the Baptist SVDP", or bring hams or funds to the parish office. Please bring all donations in by Wednesday, March 14th. Thank you!

**Take A Rice Bowl**

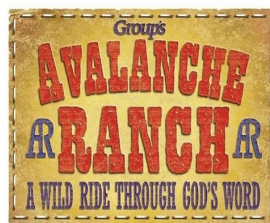
Catholic Relief Services and you encounter Andrise, a teacher in Haiti who knows the importance of forming young people who will give back to the community-and their country. Reflect on the role teachers have played in bringing you closer to God and your community. **How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities?** [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org)

**Lighting the Way, 2018**

The Annual Bishop's Appeal in the Diocese of Oakland is what one way to serve our fellow parishioners and the broader community as we demonstrate our unity as Catholics of the Diocese of Oakland. We are asked to pray for our fellow parishioners, our clergy and leadership, for those who are served by the many ministries and programs offered by the Church, and for the success of the 2018 Bishop's Appeal  
-Bishop Michael Barber

**Vacation Bible Day Camp**

St. John Church Vacation Camp will 25-29th, School transformed Country



The Baptist 17th Annual Bible Day be held June 2018. Our Gym will be into a Western

Ranch Experience for "A Wild Ride at Avalanche Ranch". [www.sjtbc.us/vbdc.html](http://www.sjtbc.us/vbdc.html). Questions: Pam Vincent [email:pam@sjtbc.us](mailto:pam@sjtbc.us)

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land at Christmas Season**

Come and Join this Extraordinary unforgettable Trip to the Home Land of Jesus

With Fr. Joseph Tran  
-Round Trip from USA  
Hotel Included

December 3-13, 2018  
-Breakfast and Dinner Daily

\$3,200/person  
-Mass Daily



For more information visit: [www.polandmej.com](http://www.polandmej.com)

Contact: Victoria Tannady (510) 847-7773 email: [beatitudes8@rocketmail.com](mailto:beatitudes8@rocketmail.com)  
or Luvi Lumibao (510) 918-5825 email: [luvilumibao@aol.com](mailto:luvilumibao@aol.com)